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ABSTRACT

The major objectives and benefits of the Advanced Placement Program (APP) are summarized, and data specific to Delaware are compared to national statistics about advanced placement (AP) courses in high schools. School participation in the APP is considered an indicator of academic success by educators and policy makers. The extent to which Delaware students participated in the May 1988 AP examinations and their success rates by subject area are provided. AP course offerings in Delaware public high schools and their 1988-89 enrollments by subject area are presented. Data are provided for 463 public and 526 non-public school students taking a total of 1,397 examinations. Delaware has a very high non-public involvement in AP examinations, with over half of those sitting for AP examinations representing non-public schools. Public school participation is increasing at about five times the rate of non-public participation. The state mean for all candidates exceeded the national mean by about 0.2 point. About 60% of Delaware's full-time public high schools provide AP courses. Twenty-seven percent of the examinations taken by public school students were in mathematics and science, 59% in English and social sciences, 12% in computer science, and 2% in foreign languages. Thirty-five percent of the examinations taken by non-public school students were in mathematics and science, 44% in English and social sciences, 8% in computer science, 11% in foreign languages, and 2% in art and music. Seven data tables are included. (SLD)

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ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

DELAWARE PROFILE

1988-1989

STATE OF DELAWARE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

DOVER, DELAWARE 19903

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ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM
DELAWARE PROFILE
1988-89

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ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM
DELAWARE PROFILE, 1988-1989

INTRODUCTION. In 1988, the Research and Evaluation Division of the Delaware Department of Public Instruction began to collect and report selected information concerning availability of Advanced Placement (AP) courses in Delaware's public high schools and student participation in national AP examinations. Providing Advanced Placement opportunities for academically able students is a benchmark of quality for participating schools, allowing educators to assure these students appropriately demanding scholastic activities. For participating students AP offers not only the pride of excellence in achievement, but also considerable cost savings for successful attainment of college credit.

Nationwide, the Advanced Placement Program has expanded rapidly. Last May over 292,000 students representing more than 8,000 schools participated in almost one-half million AP Examinations. What began as a program of academic excellence for a small group of "elite" has expanded into a program of academic opportunity for secondary students throughout the nation and, indeed, the world. More and more, school participation in the Advanced Placement Program is considered an indicator of academic excellence by educators and policy makers alike.

This report summarizes the major objectives and benefits of the Advanced Placement Program and compares Delaware-specific data to national statistics. The comparative data include both public and nonpublic participation in order to accurately represent each sector's contribution to total state results. Subsequent information shows the extent to which Delaware public high school students participated in the May 1988 AP Examinations and their success rates by subject area. Advanced Placement course offerings in Delaware public high schools and their 1988-1989 enrollments by subject area follow. It is anticipated that this document will provide relevant information concerning one of many educational opportunities available to students through Delaware schools.

PURPOSE. In the 1988 AP Yearbook, published by The College Board, Delaware is included among those states offering the greatest student access to Advanced Placement services. The purpose of this report is to give readers a meaningful profile of the extent to which Advanced Placement opportunities are made available to Delaware students and the degree to which students are taking advantage of these opportunities. Concerns addressed include:

(a) How does public school participation in Delaware compare to nonpublic involvement?
(b) How does each sector influence the total state profile?
(c) What are the general annual trends of AP Program participation in Delaware?
(d) To what extent do minority populations participate in the Advanced Placement Program?
(e) How is state participation in AP examinations dispersed across the subject areas?
(f) How do Delaware mean scores by subject area compare to national averages?
(g) To what extent do individual public high schools in Delaware offer Advanced Placement services?

PROCEDURES. National and Delaware-specific data contained in Tables 1-5 were obtained from state summary reports published by the College Board. Data in Table 6 summarizing Delaware public high school student participation in the 1988 AP Examinations and percents of students receiving scores of 3 or better were provided by local high school coordinators and reflect data reported to individual schools by the College Board. Information presented in Table 7 concerning the availability of AP courses in Delaware public schools and their 1988-1989 enrollments was extracted from the course offerings component of Delaware's School Profile Program.

To facilitate reporting, the Advanced Placement Examinations have been grouped into 7 categories as follows:

Art and Music
- Art History
- General Studio Art
- Studio Drawing
- Music: Listening & Literature
- Music Theory

Computer Science

English
- Language & Composition
- Literature & Composition

Foreign Languages
- French Language
- French Literature
- German Language
- Latin: Catullus/Horace
- Latin: Vergil
- Spanish Language
- Spanish Literature

Mathematics
- Calculus

Sciences
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Physics: Mechanics
- Physics: Electricity/Magnatism

Social Sciences
- American History
- European History
- American Government
- Comparative Government

WHAT IS THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM?

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program, established in 1955 by the College Board, is a cooperative educational endeavor that allows secondary and postsecondary institutions to recognize students for outstanding high school achievement and, in many cases, to award college credit for high school accomplishments. Through the AP program, high schools can provide their able students with studies appropriate to their abilities and interests, with reasonable assurance that these efforts will not have to be repeated at the college level.

In addition to possible financial savings, involvement in the Advanced Placement Program provides other benefits to participating students. The rigor of AP courses develops their abilities to handle challenging situations. Increased self-discipline, confidence, and perseverance, along with improved analytical, research, and time management skills, are among the intangible benefits derived from AP involvement. Exposure to college expectations through AP experiences helps entering freshmen adjust quickly to the demands of the postsecondary environment. Sitting for AP Examinations improves test-taking skills and instills student confidence; test takers learn that they can concentrate for 3-hour blocks of time and write effectively under pressure. Students who earn advanced college placement have greater scheduling flexibility at the postsecondary level. Often, successful students can bypass large, impersonal introductory college classes and proceed to more advanced courses, explore new areas, or develop double majors. Broader options made available to students through successful AP participation can expedite entry to graduate school or initiation of careers.

Implementation of Advanced Placement courses by an individual high school is determined by the unique needs and resources of that institution. To participate in the Advanced Placement program a high school need only appoint an AP coordinator; file a participation form with the College Board; and order, administer and return the exams in the spring. Some schools enter the program already offering such studies as part of existing honors programs. Others design special Advanced Placement courses based on guidelines provided by the College Board. Many students participate in the program individually through independent study.

In May of each year, high school students are given the opportunity to demonstrate their college-level skills and knowledge by participation in the national Advanced Placement examinations. Twenty-nine examinations in fifteen fields are currently available to students on a voluntary basis. Disciplines include art, biology, chemistry, computer science, economics, English, French, German, government and politics, history, Latin, mathematics, music, physics, and Spanish. Examinations are open to high school students in any grade. Students may repeat examinations in future years.

In June the examinations are scored by specially selected college professors and secondary school teachers trained to ensure fairness and reliability in scoring. Readers' judgments on open-ended questions are combined with results of the multiple-choice sections to arrive at a final ranking:

5 - Extremely Well Qualified
4 - Well Qualified
3 - Qualified
2 - Possibly Qualified
1 - No Recommendation

Scores of 3, 4, and 5 are considered passing. In early July results are reported to those colleges identified by the participating students.

Upon receipt of the scores, colleges may grant credit, advanced placement, or both for qualifying work on the examinations. Individual colleges and universities differ in their policies concerning the granting of AP credit. More than a thousand postsecondary institutions regularly grant advanced placement and/or credit to those students presenting AP examination grades of 3 or higher. Others partially participate in the program, granting AP credit in selected subject areas. Some colleges and universities award no AP credit. Persons interested in policies of particular colleges and universities can refer to The College Handbook, published by the College Entrance Examination Board, or correspond directly with appropriate officials at the institutions in question.

Five in-state and 156 out-of-state colleges were designated by Delaware participants to receive Advanced Placement scores in 1988. In-state colleges receiving grades from Delaware students were:

Name of College	Number of Grades Received
University of Delaware	287
Delaware Technical & Community Colleges	3
Delaware State College	2
Goldey Beacom College	2
Wesley College	1

FINDINGS. Delaware has a very high nonpublic involvement in Advanced Placement Examinations. Over half the state's candidates who sat for 1988 AP Examinations represented nonpublic schools, compared to only 20 percent nonpublic participation nationally. Trend data indicate, however, that Delaware's public school involvement is increasing at about 5 times the rate of its nonpublic participation. Fifteen percent of the state's public school candidates who took 1988 AP Examinations represented minorities, compared to 7 percent of the nonpublic candidates. The state mean for all candidates exceeded the national mean by about two-tenths point. Delaware's public school candidates scored slightly below their national counterparts, while Delaware's nonpublic mean was four-tenths point above the national nonpublic mean. Twenty-seven percent of the examinations taken by public school students were in math and science, 59 percent in English and social sciences, 12 percent in computer science, and 2 percent in foreign languages. For nonpublic candidates, 35 percent were in math and science areas, 44 percent in English and social sciences, 8 percent in computer science, 11 percent in foreign languages, and 2 percent in art and music. Seventeen of Delaware's 28 fulltime public high schools (about 60%) currently provide one or more AP courses for their students.

TABLE 1
DELAWARE PARTICIPATION
1988 ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMINATIONS
PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

	Public Schools		Nonpublic Schools		Total State
	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	
Candidates	463	46.8	526	53.2	989
Examinations*	612	43.8	785	56.2	1,397
Qualifying Scores**	387	36.4	675	63.6	1,062

*Student may be examined in more than one subject.
**Qualifying scores, as defined by the College Board, are scores of 3 and higher.

CHART 1
PUBLIC & NONPUBLIC PARTICIPATION
1988 AP EXAMINATIONS
DELAWARE & NATIONAL PERCENTS

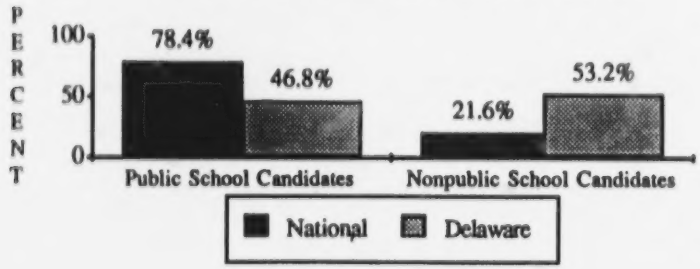

Table 1 summarizes Delaware's public and nonpublic school participation in 1988 Advanced Placement Examinations and demonstrates the state's high nonpublic involvement as compared to national statistics. *Chart 1* illustrates graphically the ratios of public and nonpublic involvement at state and national levels.

TABLE 2
PARTICIPATION SUMMARY, 1987 & 1988
ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMINATIONS
DELAWARE PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

	Public Schools			Nonpublic Schools			Total State		
	1987	1988	Percent Change	1987	1988	Percent Change	1987	1988	Percent Change
Candidates	395	463	+17.2	509	526	+3.3	904	989	+9.4
Examinations	485	612	+26.2	753	785	+4.2	1,238	1,397	+12.8
Qualifying Scores*	319	387	+21.3	618	675	+9.2	937	1,062	+13.3

*Qualifying scores, as defined by the College Board, are scores of 3 and higher.

TABLE 3
CANDIDATES BY RACE
1988 ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMINATIONS
DELAWARE PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

	Public Schools		Nonpublic Schools		Total Public and Nonpublic	
	Number of Candidates	Percent of Public Participation	Number of Candidates	Percent of Nonpublic Participation	Number of Candidates	Percent of Total Participation
Asian	35	7.6	26	4.9	61	6.2
Black	25	5.4	6	1.1	31	3.1
Hispanic	6	1.3	3	0.6	9	0.9
White	373	80.5	446	84.8	819	82.8
Not Reported	24	5.2	45	8.6	69	7.0
Total	**463**	**100.0**	**526**	**100.0**	**989**	**100.0**

TABLE 4
MEAN SCORES BY SUBJECT AREA
1988 ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMINATIONS
DELAWARE PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

	Public Schools			Nonpublic Schools			Total Public and Nonpublic		
	Exams Taken	Percent Passed	Mean Score	Exams Taken	Percent Passed	Mean Score	Exams Taken	Percent Passed	Mean Score
Art and Music	2	100	5.00	16	94	4.19	18	94	4.28
Computer Science	75	53	2.64	59	78	3.26	134	64	2.91
English	132	66	2.92	162	96	3.71	294	82	3.36
Foreign Languages	13	62	3.00	89	74	3.08	102	73	3.07
Mathematics	103	79	3.31	151	81	3.61	254	80	3.48
Sciences	63	62	2.73	127	87	3.73	190	79	3.40
Social Sciences	224	59	2.83	181	88	3.57	405	72	3.16
Total	**612**	**64**	**2.91**	**785**	**86**	**3.56**	**1397**	**76**	**3.28**

Table 4 shows public, nonpublic, and total state participation in the 1988 AP Examinations, the percent passed with a qualifying score of 3 or better, and the mean score by subject area. Percents are computed using category totals. For example, 79% of the 103 mathematics examinations taken by public school students received scores of 3 or higher.

TABLE 5
DELAWARE AND NATIONAL MEAN SCORES BY SUBJECT AREA
1988 ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMINATIONS
PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

	Public Schools			Nonpublic Schools			Total Public and Nonpublic		
	Delaware	National	Difference	Delaware	National	Difference	Delaware	National	Difference
Art and Music	5.00	3.20	+1.80	4.19	3.31	+0.88	4.28	3.23	+1.05
Computer Science	2.64	2.76	-0.12	3.26	2.66	+0.60	2.91	2.74	+0.17
English	2.92	3.01	-0.09	3.71	3.25	+0.46	3.36	3.06	+0.30
Foreign Languages	3.00	3.15	-0.15	3.08	3.33	-0.25	3.07	3.21	-0.14
Mathematics	3.31	3.20	+0.11	3.61	3.09	+0.52	3.48	3.18	+0.30
Sciences	2.73	3.01	-0.28	3.73	3.09	+0.64	3.40	3.03	+0.37
Social Sciences	2.83	2.98	-0.15	3.57	3.21	+0.36	3.16	3.03	+0.13
Total	**2.91**	**3.03**	**-0.12**	**3.56**	**3.16**	**+0.40**	**3.28**	**3.06**	**+0.22**

TABLE 6
ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMINATION RESULTS
DELAWARE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
MAY, 1988

High School	Art/Music		Computer Science		English		Foreign Languages		Mathematics		Sciences		Social Sciences		Total	
	Exams	Pass	Exams	Pass	Exams	Pass	Exams	Pass	Exams	Pass	Exams	Pass	Exams	Pass	Exams	Pass
Alexis I. DuPont	1	100%	11	82%	5	100%	2	100%	12	92%	9	67%	19	89%	50	90%
Brandywine	-	-	4	100%	24	92%	3	100%	11	82%	9	67%	29	90%	80	88%
Cape Henlopen	-	-	9	78%	18	44%	-	-	16	25%	4	50%	29	59%	76	50%
Christiana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	100%	-	-	-	-	1	100%
Claymont	-	-	-	-	5	80%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	80%
Concord			6	17%	14	64%	2	0%	13	92%	-	-	-	-	35	63%
Dover	1	100%	18	33%	6	83%	3	100%	19	100%	11	73%	49	55%	107	64%
Hodgson Vocational	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	0%	4	0%
*Howard Career Center	-	-	-	-	20	5%	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0%	21	5%
John Dickinson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	33%	-	-	-	-	3	33%
*Laurel	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0%	-	-	2	0%	1	0%	4	0%
*Milford	-	-	2	0%	-	-	-	-	2	50%	-	-	-	-	4	25%
Mt. Pleasant	-	-	-	-	12	75%	-	-	3	100%	22	45%	20	80%	57	67%
Newark	-	-	-	-	9	100%	2	0%	14	93%	3	100%	-	-	28	89%
Seaford	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	100%	16	50%	18	56%
Smyrna	-	-	4	0%	1	100%	-	-	4	50%	-	-	5	60%	14	43%
Sussex Central	-	-	-	-	2	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	14%	30	17%
Thomas McKean	-	-	21	62%	14	79%	-	-	4	100%	10	80%	13	38%	62	66%
William Penn	-	-	-	-	2	100%	-	-	1	100%	-	-	10	90%	13	92%
Total	**2**	**100%**	**75**	**53%**	**132**	**66%**	**13**	**62%**	**103**	**77%**	**63**	**62%**	**224**	**59%**	**612**	**64%**

*Does not offer Advanced Placement courses.

TABLE 7
1988-1989 ENROLLMENTS IN
ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES
DELAWARE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

High School	Art/Music	Computer Science	English	Foreign Languages	Mathematics	Sciences	Social Sciences	Total
Alexis I. DuPont	3	-	50	-	30	29	38	150
Brandywine	-	-	-	28	12	-	25	65
Cape Henlopen	-	5	11	-	15	10	-	41
Claymont	-	-	28	-	-	-	-	28
Concord	-	-	13	-	22	20	-	55
Dover	-	3	31	-	36	23	75	168
Hodgson Vocational	-	-	16	-	-	-	13	29
Indian River	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	21
John Dickinson	-	-	22	-	12	13	-	47
Mt. Pleasant	-	-	32	3	23	20	58	136
Newark	-	25	38	-	27	-	-	90
Seaford	-	-	24	-	-	-	43	67
Smyrna	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	13
Sussex Central	-	-	5	-	-	-	25	30
Thomas McKean	-	10	13	-	-	21	14	58
William Penn	-	-	23	-	-	-	27	50
Wilmington	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	5
Total	**3**	**43**	**327**	**31**	**182**	**136**	**331**	**1053**

DELAWARE FULLTIME PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

High School	District	Grade Levels	1988-1989 Enrollment	AP Participation Courses	Exams
Alexis I. DuPont	Red Clay	9-12	1,100	yes	yes
Brandywine	Brandywine	9-12	847	yes	yes
Caesar Rodney	Caesar Rodney	9-12	1,439	-	-
Cape Henlopen	Cape Henlopen	10-12	689	yes	yes
Christiana	Christina	9-12	1,291	-	yes
Claymont	Brandywine	9-12	609	yes	yes
Concord	Brandywine	9-12	1,077	yes	yes
Delcastle Technical	NCCVT*	9-12	1,572	-	-
Delmar	Delmar	7-12	593	-	-
Dover	Capital	9-12	1,685	yes	yes
Glasgow	Christina	9-12	1,257	-	-
Hodgson Vocational	NCCVT*	9-12	940	yes	yes
Howard Career Center	NCCVT*	9-12	729	-	yes
Indian River	Indian River	10-12	600	yes	-
John Dickinson	Red Clay	9-12	756	yes	yes
Lake Forest	Lake Forest	9-12	901	-	-
Laurel	Laurel	9-12	495	-	yes
Middletown	Appoquinimink	9-12	516	-	-
Milford	Milford	9-12	977	-	yes
Mt. Pleasant	Brandywine	9-12	693	yes	yes
Newark	Christina	9-12	1,318	yes	yes
Seaford	Seaford	9-12	896	yes	yes
Smyrna	Smyrna	9-12	969	yes	yes
Sussex Central	Indian River	10-12	762	yes	yes
Thomas McKean	Red Clay	9-12	835	yes	yes
William Penn	Colonial	9-12	2,045	yes	yes
Wilmington	Red Clay	9-12	675	yes	-
Woodbridge	Woodbridge	7-12	711	-	-

*New Castle County Vocational Technical School District